



Association of Shelter Veterinarians

Medical Treatment of Animals Held in Shelters

Last reviewed: February 2014

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes that the legal status of an animal must never prevent treatment to relieve suffering. Animal shelters may be confronted with animals with emergent needs or situations in which they must hold animals with painful injuries, debilitating conditions, or significant illness. When such circumstances arise, the shelter must enact a plan to provide adequate treatment, including analgesia. Shelters must have specific written protocols to provide care including euthanasia if suffering cannot be alleviated.

POSITION STATEMENT